

House Republican Press Release

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Child Restraint Bill Passes Senate



*Bill requires booster seats for children too small
for adult seatbelts*

HARTFORD- Representative Themis Klarides (R-Derby) today hailed the passage of legislation she cosponsored which would mandate the use of child restraint systems in cars for children, depending on both the age and weight of the child. The measure passed the Senate last night after having passed the state House overwhelmingly the previous month.

Substitute House Bill 6660, “An Act Concerning Child Restraint Systems” would require children under six years old and weighing less than 60 pounds to use approved car restraint systems, children under one year old or weighing less than 20 pounds to use rear-facing car restraint system and children in booster seats to be secured by seat safety belts with shoulder belts.

“Many people make critical errors, not understanding the changes needed to safely restrain a child in a motor vehicle as the child grows,” said **Representative Klarides**, who introduced the legislation once again this session. “A child must be in a child restraint seat until they are four years of age or forty pounds. After that, they need a belt positioning booster seat to be properly situated in a car seat for the belt restraint to adequately protect them. When a child gets to be over 60 lbs. they can fit into an adult car seat more properly.”

Klarides noted that according to several credible studies, children in this weight and age gap are at an elevated risk to injury when they are improperly restrained in an adult car seat. Adult lap belts will ride up into the abdominal area, and shoulder belts will cut into the neck of a child so restrained in a serious car accident. This makes these safety devices more likely to cause injury in an accident than prevent it.

The bill will now head to Governor M. Jodi Rell for her signature.